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THE MEDITERRANEAN TEUTHOFAUNA:
TOWARDS A BIOGEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE BY REGIONAL CENSUS.
I: GENERALITIES (**)

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Summary

A pilot work for the census of the Mediterranean cephalopod fauna is presented. The census project was undertaken by the *Groupe de travail sur les Céphalopodes* in agreement with the *Società Italiana di Malacologia*. The methodology to prepare regional pilot censuses is also reported.

Riassunto

Viene presentato un lavoro pilota, prima fase operativa del progetto di censimento della teutofauna mediterranea. Tale progetto è stato intrapreso dal *Groupe de travail sur les Céphalopodes* in accordo con la *Società Italiana di Malacologia*. È inoltre riportata la metodologia per preparare i censimenti-pilota regionali.

Introduction

A few years ago, during the 2nd Congress of the *Società Italiana di Malacologia* (SIM) — Sorrento, May 1987 — a project to take a census of the Mediterranean cephalopod fauna was presented (BELLO, 1990). Afterwards, the details of the project were discussed at the meetings of the *Groupe de travail sur les Céphalopodes* of the ICSEM (International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea) (Barcelona, 1987; Athens, 1988; Perpignan, 1990), which comprises most teuthologists working in the Mediterranean area (BELLO, 1988; BOLETZKY, 1989). In agreement with the SIM, it was decided to produce a pilot work reporting the census results in some well known Mediterranean regions. Such results will appear in the *Bollettino Malacologico*, the official journal of the SIM. In this issue, the census of the Strait of Sicily (Italian side and international waters) (JEREB & RAGONESE, 1994) are presented.

The purpose of this pilot work is twofold. First, to test the effectiveness of the project and to implement it, if necessary. Second, to show in practice how the census works. From this point of view, regional censuses are intermediate steps before the coverage of the whole Mediterranean Sea.

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Methods

The presentation of each regional pilot census contains:

1. Introduction: definition of the covered area and references to the material used for the census.
2. Nautical chart of the area, UTM projection, with superimposed 10' x 10' grid (census units).
3. Thematic charts, one for each species; UTM projection, with grid as above. Positive meshes (i.e., rectangles of the chart corresponding to parts of the sea surface where the species was found) are marked. The marking symbols are as follows:

	light hours	dark hours
specimens collected on the bottom	●	○
specimens collected in the water column	■	□
specimens collected at the surface	▲	△
specimens collected by drifting gear	◆	◇
early juvenile stages	★	☆
specimens from predator stomachs		✕
specimens washed ashore (whole bodies only; cuttlebones, spirula shells and argonaut brood cases are not to be taken into account)		+

4. List of species, including those not reported on thematic charts due to poor position data, but the presence of which in the region is ascertained. The species nomenclature is the one reported by BELLO (1986) and subsequent emendations (SABELLI *et al.*, 1990-92; BELLO, in press).
5. Bibliography.

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